

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NAS-01 HEW-06 INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01

USIE-00 INRE-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN: HSPIELMAN
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN: HSPIELMAN
EUR/WE: BMCKINLEY (SUBS)
NAS: PROSS (SUBS)
NIH: RFISHER (SUNBS)

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O 091537Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: EXPLOSION OF TOXIC GAS IN LOMBARDY--HEALTH EFFECTS

REFERENCE: STATE 195888

1. DR. ALLEN POLAND, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, TELEPHONED OES OFFICER AUGUST 7 TO ADVISE THAT SCI COUNSELOR AMEMBASSY ROME HAD TELEPHONED INVITATION FROM GOI MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR POLAND TO COME TO ITALY TO SURVEY HEALTH EFFECTS OF TCDD EXPLOSION. PRESUMABLY, GOI WISHES POLAND TO PROVIDE SIMILAR ASSISTANCE ON HEALTH ASPECTS AS PROVIDED BY DR. KEARNEY ON DECONTAMINATION PROBLEMS IN SEVESO AREA. SCI COUNSELOR STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT POLAND PLAN TO ARRIVE IN ITALY TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, AND TO CONCERT WITH OES ACCORDINGLY.

2. ON BASIS THOROUGH KEARNEY DEBRIEFING AT INTER-AGENCY MEETING IN OES AUGUST 6, AND POSSIBILITY OF TV MEDICAL
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CONFERENCE (REFTEL) PLANS WERE THEN DISCUSSED FOR POSSIBLE

CONVENING OF NAS GROUP OF EXPERTS IN MEDICAL ASPECTS OF TCDD POISONING. INVITATION TO POLAND HAS TRIGGERED PROBABLE CONVENING BY NAS OF MULTI-SPECIALIZED GROUP OF MEDICAL EXPERTS TUESDAY, AUGUST 10. GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO COUNSEL DR. POLAND AND PROVIDE BACK-UP EXPERTISE IN ADVISING GOI. ALTHOUGH OTHER IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS MAKE POLAND RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT GOI INVITATION AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE IMPRESSED ON HIM OUR CONCERN THAT U.S. RESPOND TO GOI POSITIVELY, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OUR MEDICAL EXPERTISE COULD MAKE IN DEALING WITH LONGER-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS.

3. OES IS HOPEFUL THAT POLAND WILL BE PREPARED TO COME TO ITALY FOLLOWING PROJECTED NAS MEETING AUGUST 10. WE WILL CONFIRM AND HOPEFULLY ADVISE POLAND'S ETA. AS IN KEARNEY'S CASE WE ASSUME ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE FOR POLAND'S TRAVEL. REQUEST EMBASSY PLEASE VERIFY.

4. AS REQUESTED BY SCI COUNSELOR, DR. KEARNEY HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE DIRECTOR: DR. B. P. VATERLAUS, 8600 DUBENDORF, ZURICH: HOME PHONE-01-923-3472; OFFICE PHONE 01-820-4222. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, INVITATIONS, EXPLOSIONS, CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS, GASES, PUBLIC HEALTH, DECONTAMINATING EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE196962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSPIELMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760306-0142
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760873/aaaacmfl.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 195888
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPLOSION OF TOXIC GAS IN LOMBARDY--HEALTH EFFECTS
TAGS: SENV, US, UR, (POLAND, ALLEN)
To: ROME
MILAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006